

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-04 PRS-01 SP-02 AGR-03 EB-03

DRC-01 /055 W

----- 064280

R 092300Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 140

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0275

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS PP

SUBJECT: LAND DISPUTE LEADS TO TRIBAL CLASH IN HIGHLANDS

1. OCTOBER 7 LOCAL PRESS INACCURATELY REPORTED OVER ELEVEN THOUSAND HIGHLAND TRIBESMEN WERE ENGAGED IN BIGGEST FIGHT FOR MANY YEARS IN CHIMBU DISTRICT RESULTING IN THREE DEAD AND NUMEROUS WOUNDED. PRESS LATER REPORTED CORRECTED POLICE STATEMENT TO EFFECT NUMBERS INVOLVED WERE ELEVEN HUNDRED NOT ELEVEN THOUSAND.

2. OVER ONE THOUSAND TRIBESMEN FROM YURI, GENABONA, AND BANDI CLANS ATTACKED SOME 300 NAURU TRIBESMEN, BURNED THEIR HOUSES, UPROOTED FENCES AND GARDENS, AND SCATTERED LIVESTOCK. ONE DEATH CONFIRMED AND ABOUT 35 WERE WOUNDED. THREE CLANS CLAIMED THAT THE NAURU CLAN HAD ENCROACHED ON LAND NOT BELONGING TO IT.

3. THREE POLICE MOBILE SQUADS WERE BROUGHT INTO AREA TO RESTORE ORDER AND WILL REMAIN IN AREA FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD. SINCE NEARLY 100 HOMES DESTROYED  
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AND 500 ARE HOMELESS, GOVT IS INVESTIGATING THE NEED

FOR RELIEF OPERATIONS.

4. COMMENT: CONTINUING LAND DISPUTES, PERHAPS LEADING TO CLASHES BETWEEN CLANS MAY BE EXPECTED IN THE HIGHLANDS WHERE, ESPECIALLY IN CHIMBU, THERE IS HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF POPULATION AND SEVERE LAND SHORTAGE. WHILE THIS PARTICULARLY LARGE OUTBREAK, IT HAS BEEN OVERPLAYED BY BOTH LOCAL AND AUSTRALIAN MEDIA DUE TO ORIGINAL ERROR IN LOCAL POLICE ESTIMATE OF NUMBERS INVOLVED.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAND, DISPUTES, PRESS COMMENTS, REFUGEE RELIEF, CIVIL DISORDERS, DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974PORTM00275  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740287-0912  
**From:** PORT MORESBY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** martinml  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by martinml>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LAND DISPUTE LEADS TO TRIBAL CLASH IN HIGHLANDS  
**TAGS:** PINS, PP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005